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September 2016

AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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Family Owned Business Issue

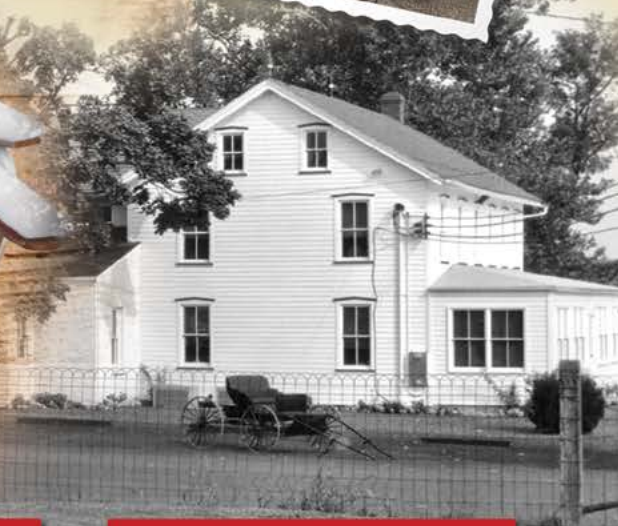
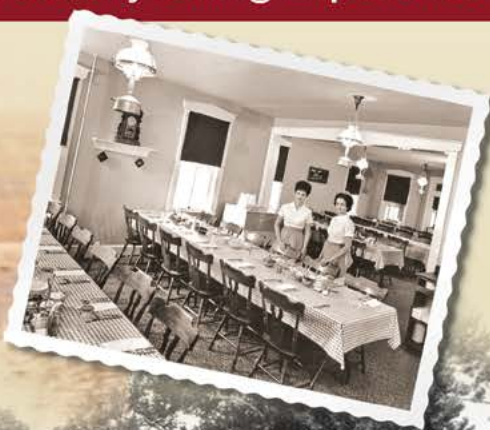
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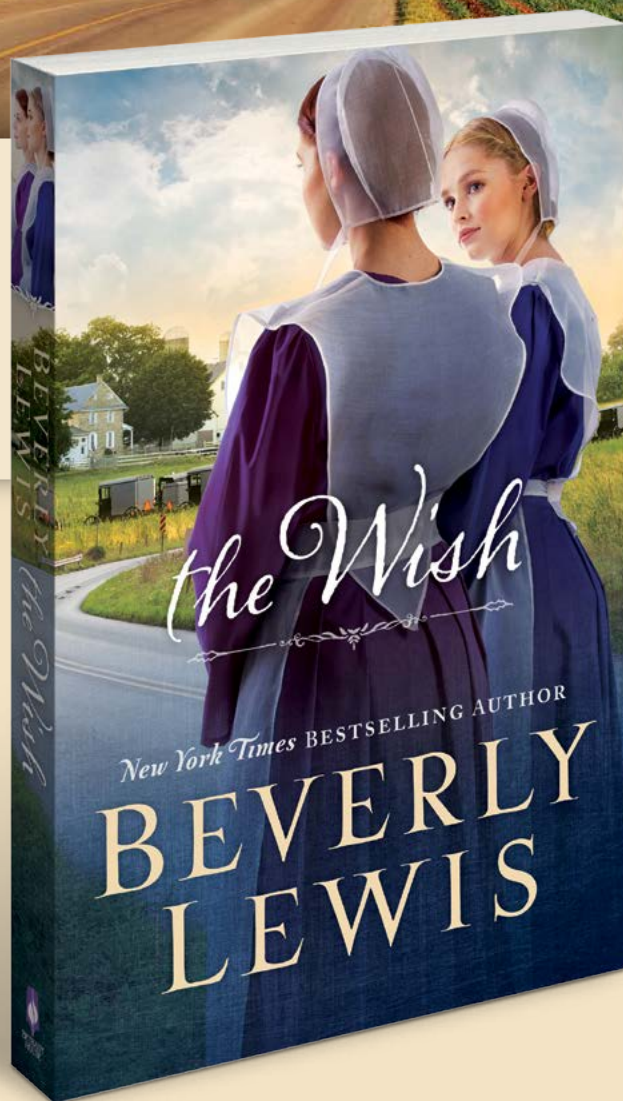
The Top Name in Amish Fiction

“You really think this is a *gut* idea, goin’ clear out there, spendin’ time with folk who’ve left the People?”

Leona didn’t know. But she was willing to do whatever she could to bring Gloria home—where she belonged.

Leona Speicher got the “sister” she always wanted the day Gloria Gingerich’s family moved to Lancaster County. The newcomers seem to be an answered prayer—until Gloria’s father is expelled from their Old Order Amish church. Before Leona can learn why, the Gingeriches suddenly pack up and disappear. When, after a silence of several years, Gloria unexpectedly contacts her, Leona makes up her mind to go after her friend. Yet Leona’s fiancé—the deacon’s son—is alarmed by her decision. Will Leona’s dearest wish lead to her own undoing?

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While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 67 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to

faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to copper crafts, T-shirts, small wood crafts, a stunning selection of pottery, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable. 



**Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week,
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Enjoy An Authentic

When you mention Amish Country almost anywhere in the United States (and beyond), people think of the Amish and the local PA Dutch foods. And when you think of eating here, you'll probably think of family-style dining.

And for generations of visitors, when they think family-style they think "Good N' Plenty."

by Brad Igou

This iconic restaurant celebrates 47 years in business this year and, unlike some of the original visitor businesses in the area that have changed ownership over the years, Good N' Plenty remains firmly in the same family. Founders Christ and Dolly Lapp have passed the baton (or is it the platter?) to their son and his wife, Glen and Brenda Lapp, partners with Glen's sister and her husband, Judy and Don Eisenberger.

Interestingly, family-style dining got started when brothers Christ and Bob opened Plain & Fancy over 50 years ago. It was a family affair, and in those early days, the food and style of

dining were a hit. Christ got involved in starting Amish Country Tours, but recognized in his wife Dolly true managerial talent. So she left Plain & Fancy to join her husband and their partner Ed Hershey in opening Good N' Plenty in 1969. In those days, there were lots of visitors, and not many restaurants, so business was brisk at both restaurants as more visitors in cars and buses poured into the county.

Christ bought an original farmhouse, and the meals were served in this authentic atmosphere at the long tables we all associate with family style dining. The Lapps had already learned from their wives that ladies didn't like crawling over benches to sit at the table, so chairs remained part of the formula. And Dolly brought with her all the things that had made family-style dining successful... simple, home-cooked food, traditional recipes, and all the food brought to the table and passed among other visitors who you did not



know, but who soon became part of that table's "family." Conversations followed as platters were passed, refilled, and passed some more before you heard the moans of delight as the desserts arrived as diners had eaten themselves full.

Eating at Good N' Plenty became a tradition for thousands of visitors visiting Amish County. Bus groups were arriving, as they still do, and the Lapps soon needed to expand from the 200 people they could serve in the farmhouse. People were waiting in line up to two hours to get a place at a table. So, in 1971 a larger dining room was added to serve several hundred more. Good N' Plenty can now handle 600 guests at a time. For the first 15-20 years there was so much business from tourists and bus groups that only early phone call reservations were taken before they had to shut off group meals at 5:00 pm so they had room for walk-ins.



Lancaster County Dining Experience.



Of course, the facility has been modernized and is more spacious, with a lovely gift shop and wonderful bakery, but you'll still see people eating in the original farmhouse, clearly visible from the road as you drive down Route 896. You'll still be treated to the same local favorites that are staples on the family-style menu.

Just as the restaurant is a tradition for visitors, so is it for many of the Lapp's employees. Lapp family members and even some employees are now the third generation to become part of the Good N' Plenty tradition. Sometimes "the kids" make lots of changes when they take over, but Glen knew that what his parents had created was what people expected when they arrived. As Glen has said, "The secret to our success 47 years later is not to change what our customers keep coming back for—a consistent menu that revolves around the freshest local

foods." Nevertheless, the Lapps heard requests from people who wanted the same great food, but perhaps not the full all-you-can-eat meal. Eventually "Menu Dining," was introduced with most of the traditional favorites plus garden fresh salads, sandwiches and home-made soups. And now many of the restaurant's favorite items are also available for take-out.

But as so many know, Christ and Dolly are still familiar faces at the restaurant, just "checking up on things." They remain part of a select

group of people who helped create the hospitality industry in Amish Country. In a county where many businesses have stayed "in the family," Good N' Plenty remains the epitome of this tradition.

The namesake of this dining legend for the next generation of the Lapp family (and their customers) still bespeaks what authentic Pennsylvania Dutch cooking and the dining experience here is all about — *"Good food and plenty of it!"*



Family Owned & Operated Since 1969

Rt 896, Smoketown, PA
717-394-7111
goodnplenty.com



Giving Family the Business by Brad Igou



Amish entrepreneurs can start young and early, as seen by this youthful lad readying his roadside stand for business.
Photo credit: Charles Rehm.

Dysfunctional families. Can't help but run into them for they're everywhere on TV and in film these days. Indeed, the endangered species seems to me the "functional" TV family I remember growing up like *LEAVE IT TO BEAVER* and *OZZIE AND HARRIET*. Their problems were little more than a perplexed, or maybe a mischievous child as on *DENNIS THE MENACE*. I should note that these TV families of yesteryear were not always the ideal nuclear family. Remember *MY THREE SONS* and *THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW*?

But somehow we, as a society, lost interest in these "normal" families and began looking for domestic units that appeared more real to us. In time, these iterations evolved into the dysfunction we've been watching now for a couple decades, albeit sprinkled with the occasional exceptions (*THE COSBY SHOW* comes to mind).

All this got me to thinking about dysfunctional family businesses. To be sure, there are popular cable shows with this theme as well. But I won't be writing about them today. The families behind the businesses advertising in these pages, most of whom I know personally and call my friends or associates, seem to be functioning quite well. Which brings me to the genesis of our September theme of "family owned businesses."

Back in 2007, our managing editor wanted to focus attention on the many family owned businesses in Amish Country as the subject of a theme for one of our issues. I jokingly said that this would be about 90% of our advertisers and we really couldn't write about every one of them. Furthermore, we highlight businesses in every issue, so the fact that they were family-owned and, perhaps more importantly, family-run wasn't really novel.

But the editor was not from around here, and couldn't help but be impressed by the absence of national chain restaurants and stores and the corresponding preponderance of family-owned businesses. I suppose that, without thinking about it, I had just taken this reality as being our norm, and actually doubted that we were unique in this regard. But upon reflection, I started pondering if perhaps the traditional work ethic, farming traditions, and influence of our Amish and Mennonite neighbors might have indeed produced a different business culture.

Clearly, many businesses were conceived here because the Amish wanted to keep close to the family rather than traveling off to work in a factory, the so-called "lunch pail dilemma." As farmland dwindled and became more expensive, factory work seemed the only

alternative. Dad was off to work with his lunch pail each morning and not seen until evening. The factory work environment also had its own unwelcome influences.

In any event, thus began Amish "cottage industries." Now Dad could stay close to home by either working for another nearby Amishman or for himself with the support of family. As listed in the book by Dr. Kraybill, *THE AMISH*, such businesses run the gamut from construction, crafts, food production, installation, machine and metal, manufacturing, to retail, services, trades, and woodworking. Within each category are multiple business types. Under "services" alone, you'll find accounting, auctioneering, battery and electrical work, butchering, clock and watch repair, horse shoeing, leather and harness, printing, sewing, spray painting, tent rentals, upholstery, tombstone engraving, and tree trimming. Now there's a list that gives new meaning to the word "eclectic!"

But family businesses aren't limited to the Amish, of course.

Families in the hospitality industry run restaurants, gift shops, hotels, attractions, bed and breakfasts, etc. Some businesses started because of a special interest or talent of a family member, as was the case with the Choo Choo Barn where the Groff family has continued the hobby-turned-attraction model railroading tradition from father to son to daughter. And they are on their way to a fourth generation.

Others saw a need or opportunity and seized upon it. After the Lapp brothers opened Plain & Fancy Farm Family Style Restaurant, one brother saw the need for another such dining experience. Christ Lapp and his wife opened the now famous Good 'N Plenty, and later the Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market, and with son Glen and grandson Justin, is now one of our best known three-generation family businesses.

There are those who seemed to have stumbled upon an idea and through their hard work and ingenuity found profit in the process. That may have been the case with the original inn built in the sleepy village with the funny name of Intercourse. Most recently during the construction of the hotel's major expansion (now the Best Western Plus Intercourse Village Inn), I saw the father involved in talks with workers to assure the finishing touches were just right while the son was getting a lesson on how to maintain the new indoor pool.

Finally, you'll notice that many farm owners have supplemented their income with adjacent craft or quilt shops, selling baked goods, giving farm tours, or opening a bed and breakfast.

In almost every case, what these businesses have in common is family support, hard work, determination, and a passion for what they do. Many will also tell you that their faith is important. They don't push their beliefs on you, but you will see them in practice in many ways --- how they do business, relate to people, and contribute to charities and volunteer work, from benefit auctions to the local fire company to disaster relief. It's also one reason that the quilt or furniture shop you planned to visit this Sunday is likely to be closed!

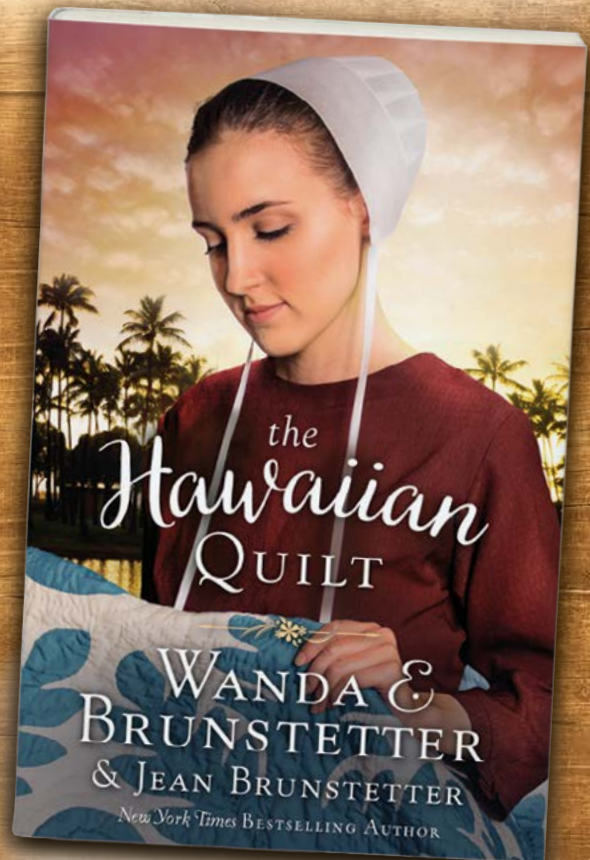
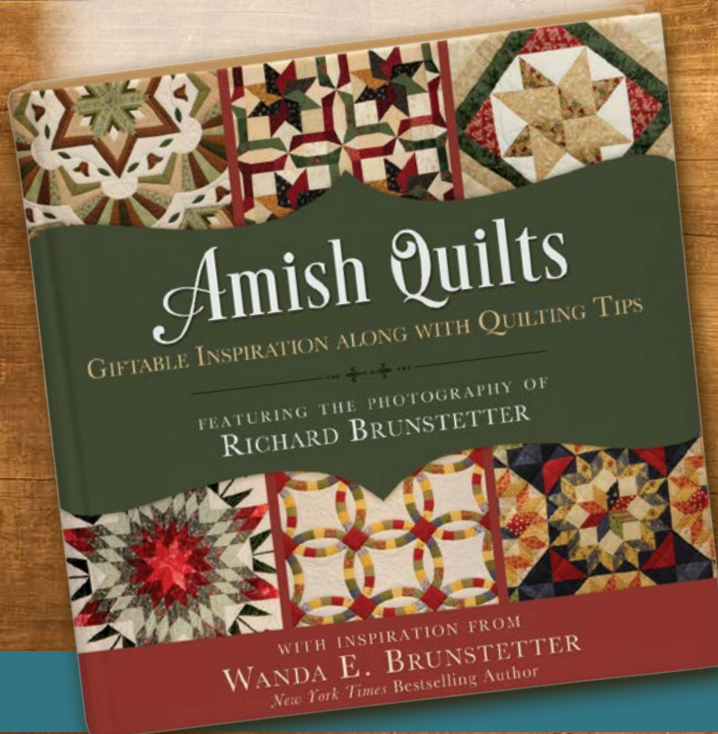
These individual entrepreneurial families have extended outward to form the hub of some of our very small rural villages where people actually know their neighbors and welcome strangers as friends. These are wonderful places where families work, worship, eat and play together.

I think one of the reasons so many visitors keep returning to Amish Country is the feeling that they've become a part of our extended family. Certainly not the stuff for reality TV shows following the fortunes of their dysfunctional family members, but, for most of us, it suits just fine! 



Explore the Joys of Amish Quilting with WANDA & BRUNSTETTER

In a lovely full-color gift book, Richard Brunstetter's photographs will take you to Amish country by exploring the simple beauty of an Amish quilt. WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER provides a bit of history behind Amish quilting traditions and includes some of their quilting tips. It is a book to treasure.



Join Mandy Frey as she takes the trip of a lifetime to Hawaii. Will the discoveries this Amish girl makes change the direction of her life?

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BirdinHandAntiqueMarket.com
Kauffman's Market, Intercourse
717-768-7112
KauffmansFruitFarm.com

Visit www.Bismoline.com

AFTER 5 ACTIVITIES

If you're looking for something to do during the evening hours there are always movies, shopping malls, outlets, comedy clubs, and lounges at the larger hotels. But here is a list of interesting ideas for the entire family. **NOTE:** See respective ads for details. More activities in our Events section. 717 area code unless noted otherwise. An * denotes coupon.

***Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides**
768-8828 (till dusk)

***Amish VIP (Visit-in-Person) Tour**
768-8400 (5:00pm-8:00pm)

Bird-in-Hand Stage
768-1508 (call for show times)

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
898-1900 (call for show times)

Dutch Haven
687-0111 (till 9:00pm)

Hershey's Chocolate World
534-4900 (till at least 8:00pm. Call for schedule)

***Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire**
665-7021 (Saturday & Sunday til 8pm)

National Christmas Center
442-7950 (till 6 PM)

***Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse**
687-4300 (call for show times)

***Water's Edge Mini Golf**
768-4653 (till at least 6 PM)

Strasburg Rail Road
687-7522 (call for schedule)

***Strasburg Scooters**
344-2488 (6:00pm tours on select days)

Village Greens Mini Golf
687-6933 (till at least 9:30pm. Call for schedule)



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717- 569-6444

Sept 23, 24 & 25
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Shupp's Grove
717-484-4115

Now through Oct. 29
Is there Life After 50?
Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse
800-292-4301

Now through October 22
Magic & Wonder Illusionist Show
Bird-in-Hand Stage
800-790-4069

Now through November 5
Josiah for President
Bird-in-Hand Stage
800-790-4069

September 10
Whoopie Pie Festival
Hershey Farm
717-687-8635

Now through Sept. 24
Yeston & Kopit's Phantom
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
717-898-1900

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September 17 & 18 - Industrial, Garden & Retro
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Maureen Bashaw/News Press

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Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies—Plus Apple Dumplings: The Not Surprising Rave Reviews

By Clinton Martin



Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door. Entrepreneurs have long recited this adage as they sought to make their mark on the world. The Amish owners of Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies must have gotten the memo, as they continue to successfully upgrade their not-so-humble chicken pie to

Continued on Page 37

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Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall: Everything Antiques & Collectibles on One Massive Floor

By Clinton Martin

Maybe it is because I publish a magazine, but I've always found antique magazine advertising haltingly interesting. The zeitgeist of an era is often palpable in a few words and an image. Some ads are shockingly incongruous with 2016 values, while others make me realize mankind has had the same basic wants and needs since the beginning of time.

Not all of the 125+ dealers at Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall carry antique magazine advertising, or ephemera in general, but many do. Those are the displays that draw me in. But, with over 26,000 square feet of merchandise space, the indescribable variety found in the Old Time General Store, Barber Shop, Ice Cream Parlor, Hardware Store, Drug Store Memorabilia, Toys, Home Décor, Furniture, and many other genres forever appeal to a huge cross-section of visitor tastes.

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall is one big mall, all on one level, with plenty of free parking (including for buses, RVs, campers,

and trucks). Open daily (except Tuesdays) the mall is easy to find along Route 30 in Paradise. GPS directions: 3371 Lincoln Highway, East,

Paradise. Call 215.721.7497 or visit their website at www.cackleberryfarmantiquemall.com.

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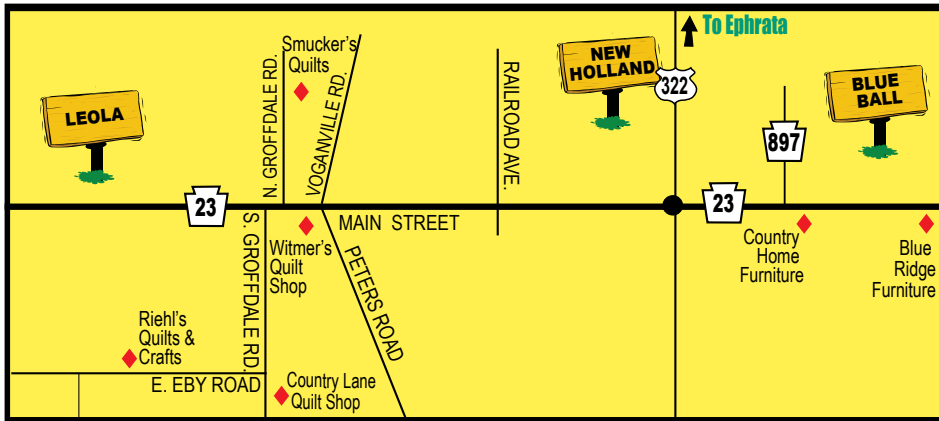
Saturdays, Sundays & Labor Day
Now through Oct. 30

PaRenFaire.com/Faire
717.665.7021

Rt. 72, PA Turnpike Exit 266
North of Lancaster



Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball



The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate

(western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn

offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres.

By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

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Country Housewares Rules Amish Retail

By Clinton Martin



Sears... Macy's... Nordstrom... "Stoltzfus?" Stoltzfus certainly isn't any recognizable name among national department stores, but the beloved Country Housewares Store is a bastion of country shopping here in Lancaster County. Owned and operated by an Amish family, this store is an impressively expansive, first-rate retail store of a very different sort. It expectedly specializes in housewares and home goods sought after by the Plain People, but carries a full line of merchandise that appeals to locals and visitors alike of all walks of life.

Window shopping in the Amish world is almost as interesting as finding a wonderful bargain to take home --- perhaps a hand-cranked blender, or a finely crafted harmonica, or the kinds of hard-to-find toys that you are positive today's kids wouldn't even recognize.

Country Housewares Store is so much more than clothing, dinnerware, fine china, kitchen utensils, books, school supplies, toys, silverware, clocks, and gas lamps... to the point that visitors often wonder what they can't find at the store. This very special store is open daily, except for Sundays. Call for more information, (717) 556-0985, or for a very pleasurable shopping experience, just point your GPS to 587 Musser School Road, Leola. 



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Next to Goods Store @ Shady Maple
1352 Main St. East Earl, Pa. **717-354-2329**



Deadline: Dec 31, 2016



Calling All Photographers!

2016 Amish Country News Photo Contest



All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should be the highest resolution and contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included. To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amish-countrynews.com (Please put "2016 photo contest" in the subject line)

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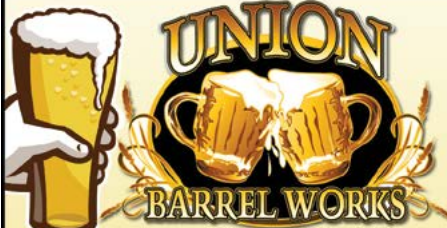
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NOTE: See respective ads for details. 717 area code unless noted otherwise. An * denotes coupon.

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- *Amish Experience
768-8400 (9:30am-5:00pm)
- Choo Choo Barn
687-7911 (10:00am-5:00pm)
- Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
898-1900 (call for show times)
- Dutch Haven
687-0111 (9:00am - 9:00pm)
- Hershey's Chocolate World
534-4900 (Open Every Sunday Year Round except 12/25)
- *Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
665-7021 (Saturdays & Sunday til 8pm)
- National Christmas Center
442-7950 (10:00am – 6:00pm)
- *Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse
800-292-4301 (Sunday Twilight)
- Renninger's Antique Market
336-2177 (Open Every Sunday 7:30am-4:00pm)
- Shupp's Grove Antique Market
484-4115 (7:00am – 4:00pm)
- *Strasburg Scooters
344-2488 (Schedule varies. Call for info.)
- Strasburg Rail Road
866-725-9666 (Schedule varies. Call for info.)
- Turkey Hill Experience
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Local Distilled Spirits Now in the Mix at Union Barrel Works

By Clinton Martin

Union Barrel Works strikes a three-fold chord consisting of old-world pub atmosphere, creative food offerings, and excellent hand-crafted beer to

melodious results. But, the saying that all good things come in threes will certainly ring truer now that Union Barrel Works is serving local distilled spirits, and utilizing the spirits to create a variety of custom-made cocktails.

A new PA law has resulted in granting brew pubs the ability to sell PA distilled spirits as well as PA wines alongside the on-site brewed beers. It's a win for in-state producers, and opens up the menus at brew pubs to exciting new creations. You'll find it hard to resist the Union Barrel Works strawberry and cream,

Continued on Page 15

New Era of Royal Entertainment Begins at the Rollicking PA Renaissance Faire

By Clinton Martin

Now through the end of October, the Renaissance Faire is a wondrous—well way to spend a very full and entertaining weekend day in Lancaster County. The festival, now in its 36th year, turns the beautifully manicured grounds of Victorian Mount Hope Estate into a rollicking, mirth-and-merriment filled recreation of an Olde English Country Faire in the midst of a realistic 16th century hamlet outside of London.

Jousting knights, festive jugglers, fire eaters, sword swallows, living history demonstrations, royal kitchens with remarkably tasty festival foods, craft brewed beers and wines by the Estate itself—these are all hallmarks of this festival that has been named One of the Top Ten Events in Pennsylvania.

This year's plot line has the "Shire" (the 30 acre faire grounds) as the site of King of England Henry VIII's coronation. The day begins at 10am with the "King's Court," where the storyline is laid out and the day's major entertainments introduced.

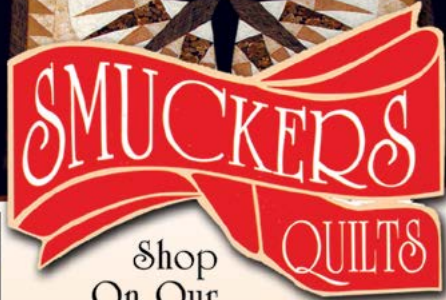
I decided to attend the Faire day and experience the entertainment from open to close, following the major players as the romance, drama and action were brought to life. Following King's Court came the Tournament Joust, the spectacular Human Chess Match, the fiercely lifelike Ultimate Joust, and at 6:30pm, the

Finale in Song, which was the very entertaining coronation of Henry.

I appreciated that there was plenty of time in between these events to catch many of the other 90-some stage shows, enjoy delicious foods, and admire the scores of artisans selling and demonstrating their wares.

I quickly realized that this festival is not to be planned and followed down to the minute. That's because there is so much happening spur of the moment. Just walking about the

site along the village streets, I saw a period-music duet, a juggling troupe, gypsy dancers, traditional renaissance trumpeters, and an Irish singing quartet. Be thou entertained, and spend a day with a Knight during your visit to the PA Renaissance Faire. Mount Hope Estate is located on RT72 just 15 miles north of Lancaster City and 13 miles east of Hershey. 2775 Lebanon Road, Manheim, PA 17545. Visit www.parenfaire.com for details and discount Faire tickets. 



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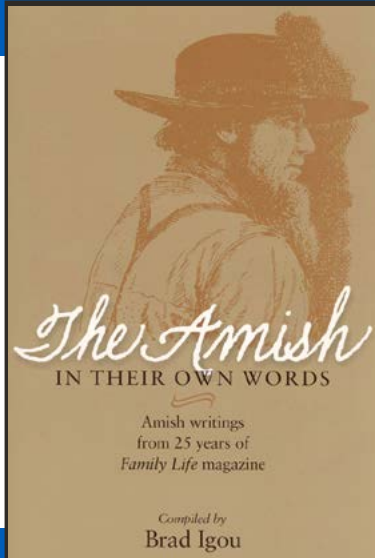




Union Barrel Works (Continued from Page 14)

and peaches and cream martinis, along with a refreshing vodka cranberry! More cocktails are being added all the time.

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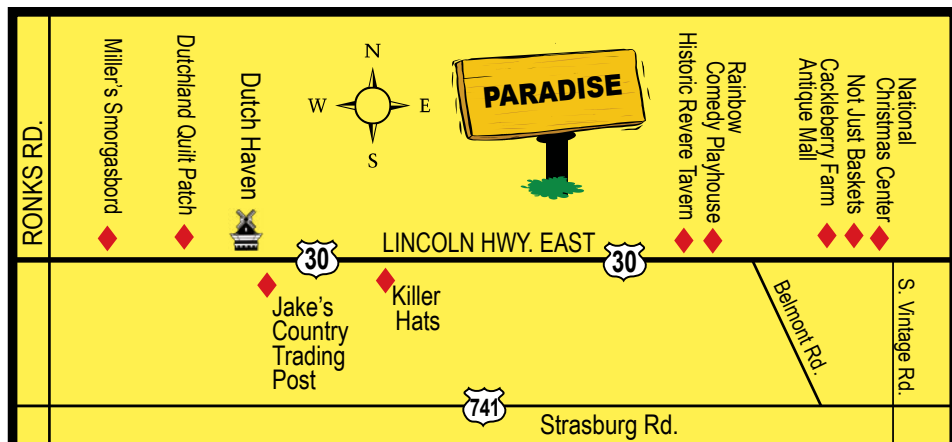
“These writings tell more about the Amish than two dozen of those glossy coffee-table tomes that litter book stores.”
—Jack Brubaker, *The Scribbler, Lancaster New Era*

“Much popular literature on the Amish taps into sentiments of nostalgia or sensationalism, revealing more about the author and audience than about the Amish themselves. This book lets the Amish speak in their own voice.”
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Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on Route 30 travel through Paradise. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as

the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of Route 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created.

Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike"). The "Lincoln Highway" (Route 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle," still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Suwannee River" and "Oh! Susanna." Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!



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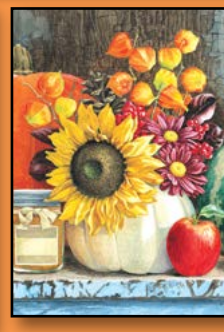
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You'll Find Amish Country's Coolest Looks at Killer Hats

By Clinton Martin



The first order of business here is to clarify that Killer Hats is not just a hat store. In addition to headwear, Killer Hats offers hard to find boots, belts, buckles, and brand-name apparel. Of course, to call Killer Hats a clothing store doesn't quite cut it either. Killer Hats doesn't have watermelon golf shirts and scarves for men. This is extreme fashion for Ladies, Gentleman, Cowboys, Bikers and Scoundrels. Whether you want distinguished, rough, tough, classy or classic, proprietors Steve & Linda Wilson have the look for you.

The business began in 1949 as The Hat Corner, and grew steadily until 2008 when the founder decided to retire. Steve and Linda took over and continued to grow the business. They began by taking their inventory of hats around to small shows and expos. This proved both fun and productive, and sparked a whole new side of the business, attending shows.

In a short time, Steve and Linda had changed the name from The Hat Corner to Killer Hats, and were on the road with a four-man crew and a specialized tractor trailer, going to rodeos, motorcycle events, sporting competitions, and races.

As the business grew, they realized the need for some permanent roots, and opened the showroom in Paradise. Today, the products have evolved with the business, and are as



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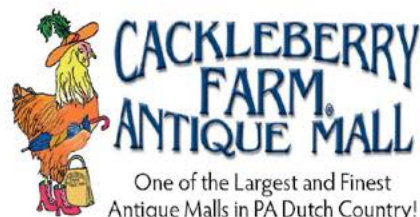
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Continued on Page 21



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In Beautiful Paradise Lancaster County Pennsylvania

Myths About the Amish

by Brad Igou

Over the years, and even more so today with the proliferation of “reality TV shows,” there have been many misconceptions communicated about the Amish. These often go beyond stereotypes, to outright lies, with one of the best examples being the outrageous (but, sadly popular) “Amish Mafia” series. Admittedly, some viewers watch such shows for their entertainment value, but others actually believe much of what they see. Bottom line --- such shows have made it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

In this series, we will deal with several of the more understandable misconceptions about the Amish, many of which may have some truth to them, and try to provide accurate historical explanations. The reader should keep in mind that Amish customs vary a great deal across the USA, and much of what follows is focused on the Lancaster settlement, the oldest in the Nation.



Tobacco leaves
being harvested

“The Amish Don’t Smoke”

Many visitors to Lancaster are surprised, even shocked, to learn the Amish here grow tobacco. They assume the Amish would certainly not be smokers and that their beliefs would not allow their growing it. In fact, the debate is a controversial one and the matter of smoking and tobacco has been called a “burning issue” across Amish communities in the United States.

Tobacco, a labor-intensive crop that lends itself to large families working the fields, has always been part of the agricultural scene in Lancaster. While prices vary from year to year, it tends to be an excellent cash crop. Yet, smoking and the growing of tobacco is outright forbidden in many other Amish settlements across America.

In March and April, Lancaster Amish farmers use steam to sterilize the tobacco bed, and then sow the tiny seeds. Visitors to Lancaster often notice the larger tobacco beds planted under white cloth.

By late May the plants are large enough to begin transplanting into the field. A unique device, pulled by horses or mules, is used. Making a furrow as it goes along, the device has a large water tank, and a place for two people to sit and drop plants into the ground. It should be noted that the planting is often staggered, so that all the tobacco does not

mature at once. This allows for harvesting the plants when they are at their prime.

The Amish family is commonly seen hoeing their tobacco during the month of July. The cutting takes place in August and September, to be stripped and hung in the barn later on in the winter months of December and January, when there is not much farm work to be done.

According to John Hostetler, author of *AMISH SOCIETY*...

The Amish in Lancaster County started raising tobacco soon after the tobacco industry was established there, probably about 1838. They, along with a group in Saint Mary’s County, Maryland, are the only Amish in the nation who grow tobacco.

In those districts where it is permitted, there is no effort to conceal smoking, except in the case of cigarettes, which are viewed as “worldly.” Where forbidden, it is often done secretly. Older men appear to have more “right” to chew or smoke than young men. Pipe and cigar smoking is the accepted practice. Modern lighters are used by some. It was formerly common for older women to smoke a pipe.

Over the years, as more information regarding the deleterious effects of smoking were made known, some of the Amish became unusually vocal in their feelings on the matter. As far

back as 1969, author Joseph Stoll wrote an article in the Amish magazine *FAMILY LIFE* titled “Tobacco: A Burning Issue.” He noted that long ago some people used tobacco because they believed it had medicinal value.

But he also quoted from a church discipline that states, “No one shall use tobacco, because it is a bad habit whereby one wastes time and money.” This was written by the European Anabaptist forefathers of the Amish and Mennonites in 1639!

The controversy over tobacco continued to be reflected in the magazine. In February 1976, a reader wrote, “It’s time to face the facts and realize that using tobacco is a lust of the flesh, a harm to your health, and a waster of your money. Why don’t we work together to get this evil out of our churches?”

In Lancaster, cigars and pipes are the norm, with cigarettes deemed too “worldly.” This explains why cigarettes, as a symbol of rebellion, are popular among some unbaptized Amish youth.

Indeed the number of Amish who raise tobacco has decreased. Hostetler, in *AMISH SOCIETY*, wrote that “in 1929, 85% of the Amish farmers in Leacock Township, Lancaster County, grew tobacco. It is estimated that about one-third of the Amish farmers raise tobacco today.” Since that was written, the percentage has dropped even more to below one-fifth, so much so that sometimes one can drive through the countryside for quite a while before seeing the long leaves of the tobacco crop.

Nonetheless, even though some Amish farmers have switched to tomatoes, vegetables, or non-agricultural businesses to replace traditional farming of tobacco, you can still see Amish families planting, cultivating and harvesting tobacco in the area’s farmlands. And tobacco sheds, their side slats open to reveal the drying leaves, remain familiar structures dotting the Amish countryside here.

In our modern world, the issue of smoking in public places became a matter for state legislatures across the country in the 1980s. Smoking is now prohibited in most public places everywhere in the United States.

It wouldn’t be surprising to me if the planting and harvesting of tobacco among Lancaster’s Amish will someday become yet another memory of “days gone by.” 

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 Good Sam

Killer Hats

(Continued from Page 18)

much about fedoras, caps, hiking, hunting, beaching, boat, snow, rain, derby's, top hats, homburgs, steampunk, Amish and simply anything you can imagine as they are about fashion and accessories.

They pride themselves in their immense selection. The Paradise showroom is 33,000 square feet, so suffice it to say they will have what you are looking for in stock.

One characteristic Steve and Linda have always stressed about their family-owned business is that it is proudly based in the US. Their employees are skilled hardworking Americans who are paid fair wages and receive benefits. They are definitely not just an online operation with an overseas call center and a US shipping address. They also make it a point to recruit, train, and retain men and women who have served in the US military.

The staff at Killer Hats always spends as much time with each customer as needed, finding the right apparel, with the right fit (including wide, high-arch, or other specialty fits), whether there's a purchase or not. It is a shopping experience, not just a store.

The Killer Hats showroom is located along Route 30 in Paradise, only four miles east of the outlets. For GPS driving directions, use 3000 Lincoln Highway East, Gordonville. Hours are Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 6:00pm, Sunday 11:00am to 5:00pm. Call 717-687-7666 or visit www.killerhats.com for more information. 

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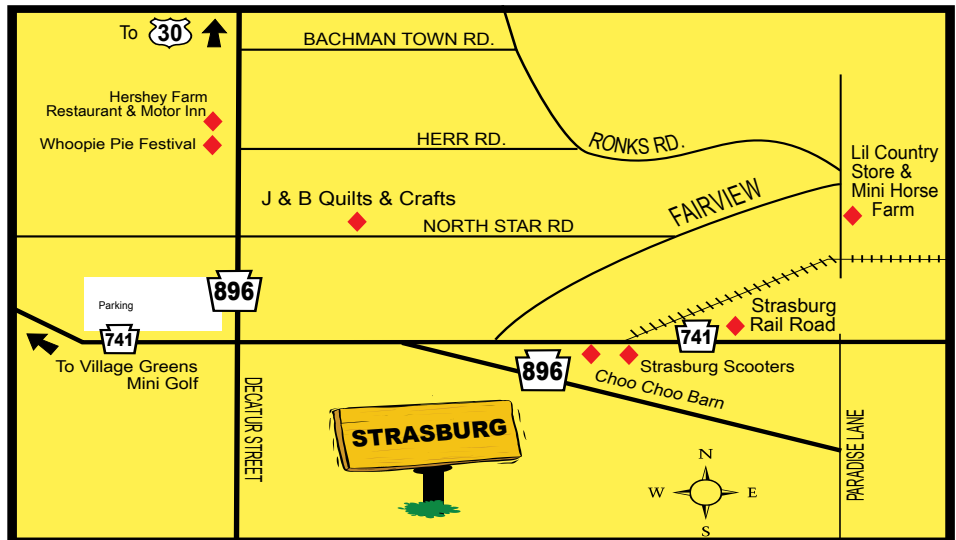
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Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage

All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town." Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled there eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street






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Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River. As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 

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Amish Country's Sweetest Event... The Whoopie Pie Festival

By Clinton Martin

How do you say Whoopie Pie in French? You don't! The spherical cakes sandwiched with delicious, creamy icing in between are distinctly American, and specifically trace their origin to Pennsylvania Dutch Country. No matter what you might hear about other States (forget it, Maine) laying claim to this definitive dessert, this is an Amish Country snack we made famous, and delicious, and have every right to be proud of.



The whoopie pie, called a gob by some, a black-and-white, bob, or "BFO" for (Big Fat Oreo), is a baked delight made of two round mound-shaped pieces of cake, the most common flavor being chocolate, with a sweet, creamy frosting sandwiched in between. According to food historians, industrious Amish women would bake these yet unnamed sweets with leftover cake batter and icing and would put them in farmers' lunchboxes. When found in their lunch, the field workers would shout "Whoopie!" Surely children reacted in the same way.

While there are countless bakeries locally offering up variations of this Amish Country staple, only one name is synonymous with whoopie pies, and that is Hershey Farm Restaurant & Motor Inn. And the normally quietly quaint place to eat, shop, and stay becomes a festival grounds of sweet-tooth fun and games every September for one day only.

For this most unusual of festivals, the Hershey Farm bakers whip up batches of 200 whoopie pies at a time, eventually reaching a grand total of 40,000! About 27,000 are eaten during the festival day, while the others actually go to work as part of the various events that make up the fun and games.

Continued on Page 24



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Whoopie Pie Festival

(Continued from Page 23)

Traditional family-fun activities are offered, like pony rides and face-painting, but special whoopie-pie themed festivities are certainly unique to this event. You can enjoy Whoopie Pie Checkers, a Whoopie Pie Eating Contest, Whoopie Pie Hunts, a Create Your Own Whoopie Pie station, Whoopie Pie Races, "Whoopie!" Yell-Offs, and the unveiling of the World's Largest Whoopie Pie!



In all, visitors to the festival will be able to choose among 100 different flavors of whoopie pies. The festival is on Saturday, September 10th (rain date Sunday the 11th) and admission is free. Hours are 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Find your way to whoopie pie madness and fun by heading south on Route 896 from Route 30. GPS Directions: 240 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572. Call 717-687-8635 or look up www.whoopiepiefestival.com for more information. 



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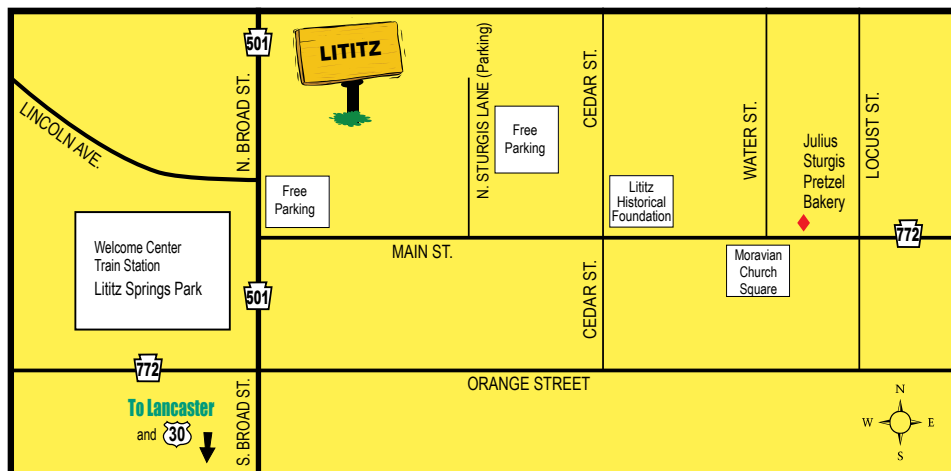
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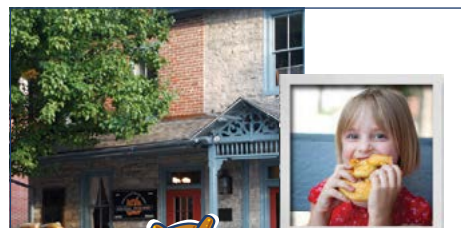


For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz -- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time. 

There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country. The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.



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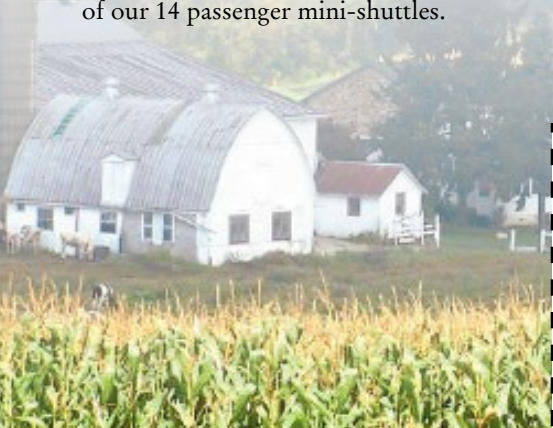
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Duration: 1 1/2 hours
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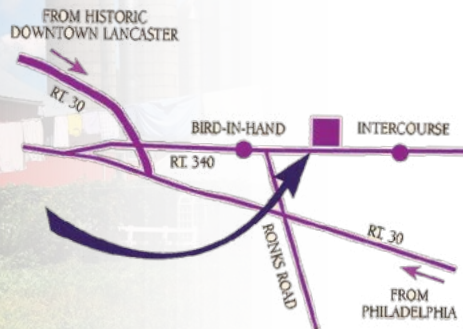
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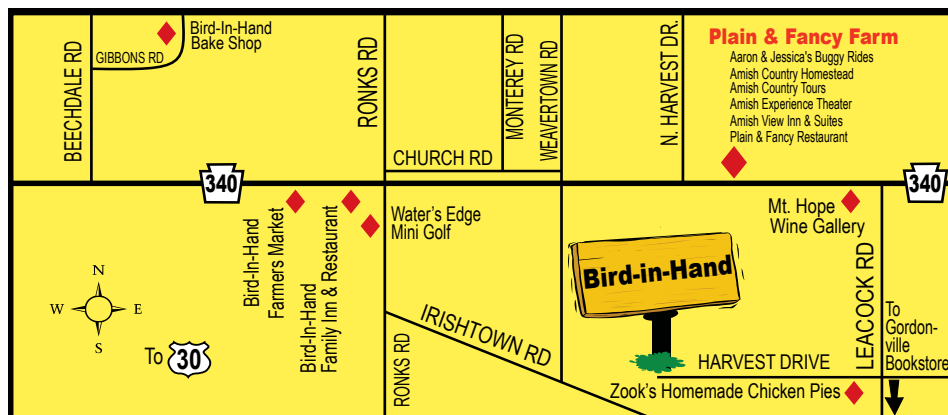
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Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoners were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is



known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster

County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

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Just in time for the election season, the hit musical *Josiah for President* returns to the Bird-in-Hand Stage. Scandal, back-stabbing and politics-as-usual are center stage until an unlikely encounter changes the course of the country. Can a plain man of faith truly turn the tide of politics and become the leader of America? Come see why this captivating journey has already captured the vote of thousands.

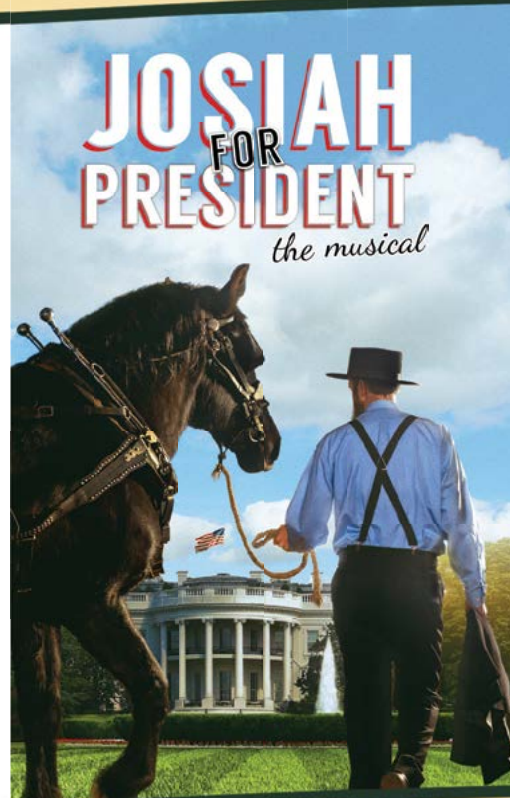
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The family and its many Plain community employees want visitors to get that great homemade taste at a better price than commercial bakeries. “We take pride in the things that we bake and enjoy the look on people’s faces as they taste our selection.” And what a selection it is! You’ll see varieties of fresh baked breads (their cheese bread is a personal favorite), potato rolls, cinnamon buns, “melt in your mouth” whoopie pies, gooey-bottom Dutch shoo-fly pie (their specialty), cookies, fruit pies, angel food and layer cakes, 12 flavors of homemade hand dipped ice cream from a local Mennonite farm, and many, many more items.



Butch & Linda Miller, Owners

Through a window behind the counter, you can observe the mixing and baking process, and see trays of baked goods waiting to go into the display cases or to be sent to fulfill wholesale orders for several local restaurants. (Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop baked goods can also be found at various market stands in five different states.) The sweet scents of fresh breads and cookies always greet your nose!

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Not only can you indulge your sweet tooth with a chocolate whoopie pie or a creamy cone of local ice cream, but Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop also offers its visitors a few extras including a fine selection of local handmade crafts. “Our wide assortment fits many people’s tastes and interests.” You’ll find locally made Amish dolls, pillow cases, pictures, candles, Amish straw hats, hand painted slates, and much more. In addition there is always a variety of canned goods and bulk foods, especially popular with those large families that live in the area.

The Millers realized that with all that food and country peacefulness, visitors might want to linger and relax. “Our large wrap around porch provides an excellent place to enjoy a hot cinnamon roll and a steaming cup of coffee.” And with more than enough green grass to go around, they have installed several picnic areas to enjoy, along with public restrooms and waste bins for your picnic use.

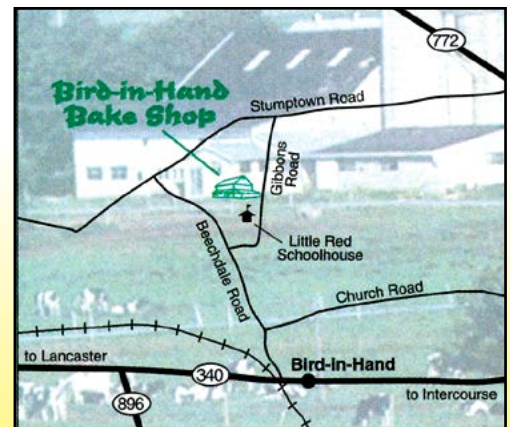
Finally, since the Millers have a family of their own, they know it is important to keep the children entertained on a vacation. “While you shop, your children can burn some energy outdoors in our huge play area.” And any place in Amish Country just wouldn’t be right without some animals. That’s why they’ve added a petting zoo to their list of attractions.

It may be a little off the beaten path, but at the Bird-in-Hand Bake shop you can truly savor the quiet peacefulness and baked goodness found only in the heart of

Lancaster County. As the Millers would say, “You can consider yourself personally invited to come and spend a day with us in beautiful Amish Country. We are confident that you will find the baked goods, crafts, and location second to none.” 

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by Caleb Bressler

tickets and go! Magic & Wonder truly weaves illusions, theatricality and comedy into one absolutely delightful experience.

Your Illusionist is Brett Myers, assisted by his wife, Labrina, plus two other associates, and his young son. The show incorporates a number of illusions to delight the audience, including a Houdini escape, sawing a woman in half, scarf tricks and many more. If you can guess how some of the illusions are done, my

hat goes off to you! The audience interaction was spontaneous and great fun to watch.

It has been said that a trick itself is only part of what makes an illusion successful. To me, the key ingredient is the Illusionist himself and the atmosphere created. Brett and his team have a wonderfully creative, theatrical flair, which they artfully incorporate in their illusions, all enhanced with impressive lighting.

Music and audio were also cleverly utilized throughout the show, with songs ranging from Adele to Elvis effectively paired with various illusions. One trick was even set to a mock old-time radio commercial.

You know how some shows drag on and you're wondering when you'll be out the door? Not this show. All too soon it was over, and we were walking out the door feeling good, but also wondering "how did they do that?" Fortunately, it sounds like Magic & Wonder is preparing to be back again with new illusions next year, so stay tuned!

Run, don't walk, to get tickets before this delightful show "disappears" for the season on October 22. Show and meal packages can be ordered at 800.790.4069. Tickets for the show are \$25 for adults and \$13 for children. When you go (notice I didn't say if), you'll want the address: 2760 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird in Hand, PA 17505. For all the shows on the stage this season, look up www.bird-in-hand.com. Enjoy the magic and don't forget the food upstairs at the iconic and always tasty, Bird-in-Hand Restaurant! 

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Blue Ridge Furniture...Building A Business Piece by Piece

by Clinton Martin

Many sounds might welcome overnight Amish Country guests when they rise in the morning. Roosters crowing, the clip-clop of a horse and buggy, and in more and more corners of Amish Country, the whirl of a sawmill zipping through a log.

Manufacturing by way of the small family business is at least as at home in Amish Country as farming. These makers-and-creators build and craft quality, durable, solid hardwood furniture. A fine example of these is Blue Ridge Furniture in the village of Churchtown. Most visitors do not see the workshop, as the saws, drills, sanders, and jointers forming raw lumber into fine furniture don't make for the best backdrop for browsing customers. I was given special access on a behind-the-scenes visit to help me bring the fascinating story of this family-owned business into focus.

Sidney Burkholder, present-day owner of Blue Ridge Furniture, took a few minutes to sit down with me in his office for an informal chat about how he came to be the foreman of his own shop. I noticed some of the tools in his office were just like what you'd see at any other place of business... phones, printers, calculators. Yet other fixtures were quite extraordinary, like the furniture on which we were sitting. I realized I need not wonder where this especially fine office furniture came from. I could look through the window and see men carefully crafting what I was sitting upon.

Sidney explained Blue Ridge had been founded by a man named Edward Hoover. Hoover hired him in 1996. After only two years, Edward approached Sidney and explained that he was going to be retiring, so perhaps Sidney would like to buy the business. At the time, Sidney didn't feel that was the right decision for him, and instead offered to be the manager.

The business did well under the arrangement, and eventually in 2000, Sidney was ready to take over the business. After only four years, he expanded the manufacturing base by adding another building, a warehouse for storing and finishing the furniture, yet keeping the assembly work in the original building. What was missing was a space for retail sales. Most of the furniture was reaching customers through a network base of mostly high-end dealers. Sidney realized that his rapidly growing business needed a local showroom of its own. That notch he added to his enterprise belt in 2006 when he



Pieces for an entire room are available at Blue Ridge.

opened a small furniture store in the village of Goodville.

Four years later in 2010 he moved his store to a larger 7,500 square foot facility a few miles down the road in Churchtown, where you'll find him today. I can only urge you to see for yourself the exceptional quality of Blue Ridge's line with a visit to the Churchtown

showroom. You won't get lost traveling along Route 23 to the quaint village of Churchtown, about five miles east of the famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord Complex, or about three miles west of Morgantown. Call 717-445-6595 for hours. Blue Ridge Furniture is closed Sundays. 

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Not valid on alcohol or with any other offer. Expires 12/31/16 • Code: C'mon back

Where It All Began. Over 50 years ago, Plain & Fancy Farm opened to provide delicious, authentic Amish meals to visitors from all over the world, the first family-style restaurant in Lancaster County. Today Plain & Fancy is a destination all its own, featuring the acclaimed "Jacob's Choice" at the Amish Experience Theater, Amish Farmlands and Visit-in-Person Tours, the Heritage Site Amish House & One-Room School, and Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides. The onsite Country Store offers excellent country shopping, and the newest addition to the property, Amish View Inn & Suites, has a brand new extension with great views and luxurious lodging surrounded by stunning Amish countryside.

A Lancaster Original. Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are some of the Amish farmers who supply the restaurant with the farm-fresh produce it serves on a daily basis. Depending on the season, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions are all sourced from farms within a horse-and-buggy's drive. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy go "from farm to table" for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today's Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast. Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known as Lancaster County's original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, sweet shoe peg corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. It was this very meal that drew Man Vs. Food's Adam Richman to Amish Country, where he went behind the scenes in the Plain & Fancy kitchen for one of his popular show's episodes.

The New "a la carte" Menu. The restaurant also offers a new a la carte menu featuring mouth-watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from scratch entrees and platters, including several PA Dutch specialties. Guests can "build a platter" with items from the family-style menu or choose one of the daily specials starting at \$10 or less. You can do it all at Plain & Fancy, so why not come and "spend the day!"

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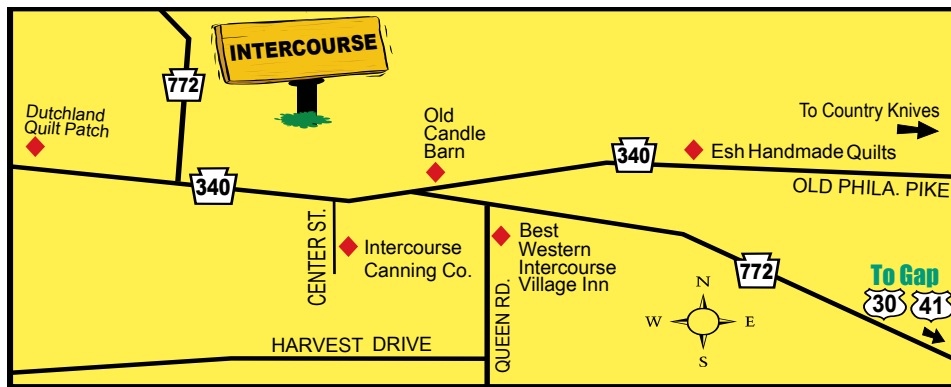
AmishView is also the only place where you can find it all, with on-premise buggy rides, gardens, farm animals, Amish Experience Theater, Farmland and Homestead Tours, shopping and nationally recognized restaurant.

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**3125 Old Philadelphia Pike
Route 340
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505**

Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way,

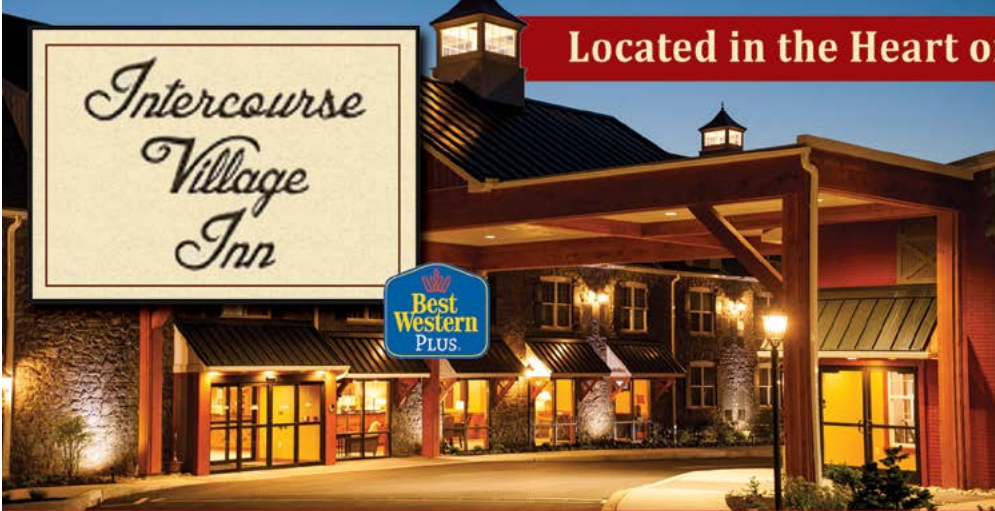
becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village. Over

time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for \$6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires! Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Discover Lancaster Visitors Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone. 



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Zook's Chicken Pies

(Continued from Page 10)

a simply delicious new level, and the well-worn path to their bake house door is proof positive that the foodie world is taking notice.

And now the folks at Zook's have ambitiously looked at the other side of the dinner table, dessert, to once again "make a new and better, mouse trap." At Zook's you'll find baking daily, with loving care of course, mouthwatering apple dumplings, packed frozen into one, two, and multiple dumpling packs. The dumplings may very well redefine what Amish Country apple dumplings can and should be.

Visitors simply have to take them home, to campsite, RV, or hotel, thaw, warm and put to mouth (perhaps with some milk or ice cream?) to produce a smile on their faces... truly, a meal unto themselves! Zook's is located at 3194 Harvest Drive, Ronks, just south of Route 340. Call 717- 768-0239. Obviously, well worth the visit. 

Flory's Campground... Where the Amish Are Your Neighbors

by Clinton Martin

Flory's campground, bordered on two sides by Amish farms, is as picturesque as it gets, guaranteeing the quiet country setting sought by so many visitors.

Flory's offers one of the best ways to "rub elbows" with the Amish without feeling like you're intruding. As one visitor put it... you can sit out on your cottage's porch with a glass of local wine or a cup of coffee and a slice of shoo-fly pie, fully content, and wave as your Amish neighbors go by.

Campsite rates start at less than \$40 a night, with discounts for longer stays. A game room, activities pavilion, playground, optional Wi-Fi and Cable TV are all available as part of the many basic amenities. The location at 99 North Ronks Road couldn't be better, between RT 30 and 340, just a short drive from Amish Country's most popular towns and attractions. Book your stay at Flory's by calling 717-687-6670 or visiting www.floryscamping.com. 

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Just 1 Mile East of Intercourse on Rt. 340

Enjoy Your Stay at One of Lancaster's Finest—Intercourse Village Inn

By Caleb Bressler

Rated as one of the top five hotels in Lancaster County on Trip Advisor, Best Western Intercourse Village Inn & Suites, nestled in the heart of this iconic Amish Country hamlet, provides a modern country atmosphere, friendly service and top-notch amenities. Located only a short walk from town shopping and eateries, you just can't go wrong with a stay here.

The inn was purchased by local hotelier, Elmer Thomas, in the 1980s. At the time, it was a quiet motor inn with 40 rooms, all with outdoor entrances. His son, Kurt Thomas, along with his wife, now own the property, which they expanded a couple of years ago to include an indoor pool, spa and 49 additional rooms.

You can choose from a number of room types, including Standard with a King or two Queens, deluxe rooms and expansive suites. Depending on your room, you might even have a view of Queen Road, where the "ice cream fight scene" from the 1985 Harrison Ford movie "Witness" was filmed. If you need a refresher on the film, the hotel plays the original, unedited version on the in-room TVs every night at 9:00PM.

This is also the only hotel in Lancaster that has an on-site day spa. Located right off the lobby, Serenity Day Spa is full-service, including a menu offering facial massages, body treatments, pedicures and manicures.



Guests enjoy swimming at Intercourse Village Inn year-round.

Just across the way is the indoor pool and hot tub, housed in a separate historic building with exposed barn-wood ceilings. You'll also find free Wi-Fi and a business center for your convenience. And, the fitness center allows you to work off the rich PA Dutch treats you've enjoyed on your Lancaster trip.

Speaking of eating, there is an on-site restaurant which, besides serving as a convenient dining option, is also a great place to experience the community, particularly at breakfast. A good number of the wait staff are Amish and locals come in for the daily breakfasts featuring PA Dutch specialties like scrapple and chipped beef.

The atmosphere in the hotel is family-friendly and customer service oriented. Staff go out of their way to make sure guests are welcomed. A goal of the hotel is for you to feel as if you are walking into your home. One of the

great things about the Best Western franchise is that each hotel is independently owned and operated, allowing the properties their own individual "personality." This certainly shows at Best Western Intercourse Village Inn!

If you like having things to do, but want to feel very much in Amish Country, this hotel is the place for you. While you can enjoy a walk through town to grab a hot pretzel or peruse an interesting gift shop, just drive a few minutes and you are out in the countryside enjoying splendid views of Amish farmland.

Sound like the place you'd like to spend your next Lancaster vacation? Call 717.768.3636 for reservations, or go online for more information at www.intercoursevillageinn.com. The hotel is located at 3610 E. Newport Road, Intercourse, Pennsylvania 17534. I have no doubt that you'll enjoy your stay! 

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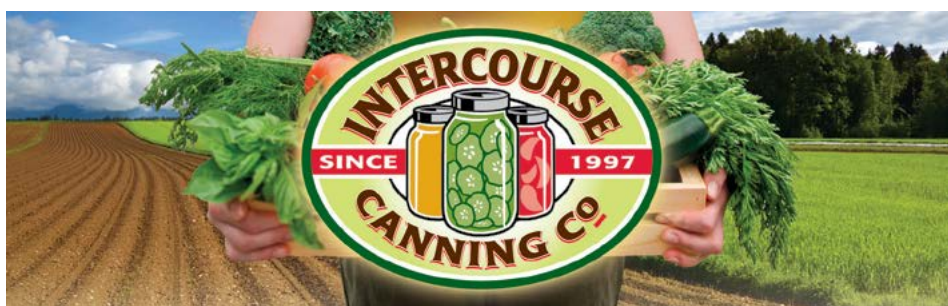
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Exclusive 40th Anniversary Country Knives Store Victorinox

By Clinton Martin

Victorinox is a household name in much of America, but perhaps in your home, it isn't. Well, if you're a devotee of Swiss Army Knives, you know Victorinox. The brand is the maker of the original Swiss Army Knife, and is one of the most famous brands carried by Country Knives Store.

Family-owned and into the third generation, Country Knives is one of the largest full-

service cutlery stores you'll find in Amish or any other country. The selection of knives and edged tools spans over 8,000 items from over 300 manufacturers from more than 20 countries all across the globe!

Country Knives is celebrating 40 years in business in 2016, but the anniversary is more than just a number. To commemorate the millions of quality knives sold over the years, Country Knives has commissioned an exclusive 40th anniversary Victorinox knife showcasing the beautiful Amish countryside, a stunning silhouette look of the area's rolling hills.

This remarkable store is celebrating yet another milestone with a first-in-a-series Victorinox Swiss Army Knife, available

exclusively at Country Knives that features Amish Country's claim to Americana fame, a beautiful traditional Amish quilt design, on the hilt.

Knife sellers abound in catalogues, websites, brochures, and newspaper inserts, but at Country Knives visitors hold the knives in their hands, feel their balance, sense the quality workmanship, inspect each part, and decide with utmost confidence whether the knife is right for them. It's an experience unto itself walking through the Country Knives showroom floor, exploring the many amazing lines of knives and cutlery you just won't find anywhere else, holding any piece in your hands that catches your eye.

Country Knives couldn't be easier to locate. The yellow fence posts at the driveway entrance are easy to spot along Route 340, just three miles east of the village of Intercourse. For GPS directions, use 4134 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville, PA, 17529. Shop online at www.countryknives.com, or call 717-768-3818 for details. 

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AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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www.amishnews.com

Published by Dutchland Tours Inc.

Brad Igou • Editor-in-Chief

brad@amishnews.com

Clinton Martin • Director: Sales & Marketing

clinton@amishnews.com

Kirk Simpson • Graphic Designer

Caleb Bressler • Editorial Assistant

For Advertising Information Contact

Clinton Martin (717) 768-8400 Ext. 217.

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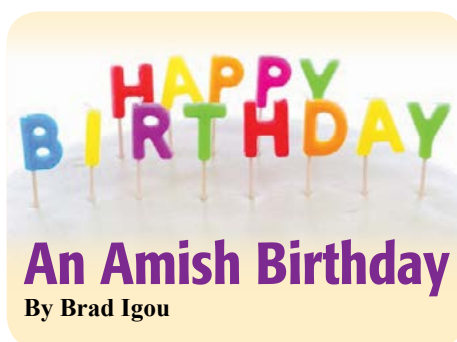
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Publisher's Message

Since we are spotlighting family businesses in this issue, I thought this story about a widowed Amish lady's birthday showed how, in the Amish world, the idea of "family" can take on a broader meaning...

The lady, whom we will refer to as Mattie, was soon to celebrate her 80th birthday. Plans had been made to surprise Mattie following the church service in the district.

Mattie was one of the first to arrive for the church service which, according to Amish tradition, is held in a neighbor's home. Mattie put her wraps in the laundry room of the house, as was customary for Amish ladies. After she entered the house, a box was brought out of the closet where it had been hidden. There were some decorations on the box, pictures of flowers and such. As the other members of the congregation arrived, they put in a small gift, and put their name in a folder as a remembrance.



An Amish Birthday

By Brad Igou

After the church service and lunch, the men were sitting and talking in one room, the women in another beside them. More people were lingering than would normally be the case, although Mattie probably didn't notice this. It was also the deacon's birthday, but he had told his family earlier in the morning, "Now don't you say a word to anybody." Apparently such birthday celebrations held on a Sunday afternoon following church are fairly unusual.

Suddenly, a birthday cake with 80 candles was carried out through the open doors. The deacon got very flustered as the cake moved towards him, most likely thinking the birthday surprise was for him! But the cake went right past the bewildered deacon to Mattie in the other room, as everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her in English, rather than in their PA Dutch (German) dialect they speak among themselves.

Then came the gifts. The idea was to have 80 presents and to open one a day. When someone mentioned that this would take months, it was suggested that two a day would be fine.

By this time, word had gotten around that it was also the deacon's birthday, so some candles were lighted and another round of "Happy Birthday" was sung for him. Mattie wanted to cut the cake and share one third of it with him, but the women tried to discourage her from doing so. (They wanted the cake for another surprise party to be held that evening.) But Mattie insisted on giving a large piece to the deacon, so one of the women took this piece and cut it even smaller before giving it to him!

That night, Mattie was expecting some visitors at her home, but at her neighbor's a much larger group of some 18 people were gathered in secret to surprise her yet again. Mattie was called next door, and discovered her birthday partying had not yet finished. More gifts were added toward the goal of 80.

Mattie had moved into this church district only a few years ago, and these parties were a good example of how Mattie had been warmly accepted by the congregation.

The following Friday, Mattie's neighbor had made plans to take her out visiting that evening. Mattie was told they would be stopping to pick up another lady along the way. As the horse pulled up to the house, the friend came out to say she was not quite ready, and suggested they come inside out of the winter cold.

The neighbor lady had invited some girls who were friends of hers, but who lived 15 to 30 miles away (outside the church district), to come and surprise Mattie. They were all there waiting for her with a cake and the numbers "8" and "0" shaped in candles.

The girls had also brought gifts, hoping to reach the goal of 80, and ended up with 86! Mattie opened these presents, which were mainly useful things, such as non-perishable food, fancy soaps in the shape of animals, and even a miniature orange crate filled with little magnetic oranges for the refrigerator door.

Later, Mattie herself noted how heartwarming this acceptance among such a group of happy people was to her. I don't know how long it took for Mattie to open all her gifts, but surely the love and friendship shown by this "extended family" stayed with her for many more birthdays to come. 

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A 50 to 60 minute, Customer Preferred Ride. Visit a real Amish Farm, tour the barn, see the cows and big draft horses. America the way it used to be. **Available Monday thru Saturday (see The Sunday Ride below).**

Amish Journey Private Rides

Longer tours in your own Amish buggy. Tours vary from one hour 20 minutes to almost two hours. Tour miles of Amish farmland on a visit to an Amish store, pass a water powered flour mill still in operation for local Amish folks. See the animals at the Farm Store and shop for fresh baked goods and local crafts. Reservations recommended. Please ask for pricing.

Available Monday thru Saturday (see the Sunday Ride below).

The Sunday Ride Adults \$14 Children \$7

This 30 to 35 minute tour is the only ride available on Sundays. The Sunday Ride is a lovely tour through an all Amish area. There are no stops on this ride due to the Amish's observance of the Sabbath.

Email Us for Details: amishbuggyrides@gmail.com

Open 7 Days a Week

Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm | Sunday 10am-4pm
Children Rate 12 yrs. and Under | UNDER 2 FREE!

